JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY: FBI
RECORD NUMBER: 124-10218-10058
RECORD SERIES: HO
AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 2-2173-1ST NR 130

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: DOS
FROM: SAUNDERS, HAROLD H.
TO: THE SECRETARY
TITLE:

DATE: 10/18/1976
PAGES: 10
SUBJECT: CASTRO, FIDEL, SPEECH, ALLEGATIONS, CIA INVOLVEMENT, CUBANA AIRLINER, BOMBING
DOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION: Secret
NEW CLASSIFICATION:
REVIEW DATE: 05/12/1998
UPDATE DATE:
STATUS Redact

RESTRICTIONS:

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

JFK Act 6 (4)

COMMENTS: INC MEMO

SECRET/SENSITIVE

October 19, 1976

9:30 AM Bill Jones advised OK with changes 10-20-76 JCP

Additional Questions (answers and comments needed by late morning, October 20)

Cubana airlines

1. Has CIA had any relationship with Posada's investigative agency or any other business he may have had?

2. [What was the nature of the contacts CIA had with Posada after he was terminated? What did the contacts have to do with Cuba?] (S)

3. [Who was the visa for that Posada approached the CIA and the defense attache about in June 1976?] (S)

4. Does the CIA believe that the source of TDFIR DB-315/10256 deliberately, delayed passing on Bosch's and Posada's remarks about hitting a Cuban plane until after the incidents?

5. Does the CIA have any additional relevant information on any of the people named in the draft memorandum, or any other information relating to the sabotage of the plane, which it has not yet disseminated in TDFIR form?

6. Would CIA please provide whatever information it has concerning Orlando Garcia and Ricardo Morales so that para b on page 8 of the draft memorandum can be completed?

2-2173

2-2173-102 -108-110

105-10848

NOT RECORDED
23 MAY 17 1977

F.B.I. INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/28/94 BY SP8 (JFK)

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT. AS SANITIZED JM 4/14/97

File in 2175 6-882

SECRET/SENSITIVE

70 MAY 19 1977

by Cuban counterrevolutionaries. Now we decidedly believe the first assumption is correct. The CIA directly participated in the destruction of the Cubana aircraft in Barbados."

--The principal leaders of Cuban exile terrorist groups are closely linked through the CORU organization to CIA activities against Cuba.

In his speech, Castro did not make any specific allegations concerning a USG relationship with Orlando Bosch, or Luis Posada (two Cuban exile activists who were arrested by Venezuelan authorities in connection with the Cubana crash). However, the link with Bosch is implied since he is reported to be chief of CORU, the umbrella organization of Cuban exile terrorists.

Individuals Allegedly Involved

Hernan Ricardo Lozano

a. Involvement in the Crash: He was arrested in Trinidad on suspicion of having planted a bomb in the Cubana plane. Caracas radio announced on October 18 that he confessed to sabotaging the airliner. A [CIA] (S) source in Caracas reports that Ricardo may have been trained in the use of explosives and investigative techniques by Luis Posada. [CIA information also reveals that Trinidadian officials have told the Venezuelans that they have a taped] (S)

[telephone conversation between Ricardo and Posada discussing their participation in the bombing.] (S)

Ricardo, a Venezuelan citizens, a photographer employed by Posada in his industrial security firm in Caracas. A (S) [CIA] source says that Ricardo is also a part time employee of the Venezuelan Intelligence Service (DISIP). He reportedly gathered photographic material on groups and individuals of interest to DISIP and the Venezuelan Government. He was hired by DISIP when Pasada was official of that organization. The [CIA] (S) source says that the Venezuelan Government is concerned and would be faced with serious problems if these connections become public knowledge.

b. Relationship with US: [CIA states it has had no contact with Ricardo.] (S) The US Legal Attache in Caracas, Joseph Leo says that he has had some dealings with Ricardo for help in expediting visa applications for a DISIP official's son, ~~and himself.~~ He also contacted Leo ~~two times to~~ furnish photographs and biographical data on members of the Cuban Embassy in Caracas. Apparently, the material came from DISIP files.] (S) During one visit attempts to solicit suggestions from the Legal Attache on activities which might be directed against the Cuban Embassy by an anti-Castro group to which he belonged. Leo says he discouraged Ricardo, pointing out that the US Government was attempting to prevent disruptive and

terrorist activities by anti-Castro groups in the US, and Ricardo never repeated the suggestion.

Freddy Lugo

a. Involvement in the crash: Lugo was arrested in Trinidad with Ricardo on suspicion of having planted the bomb aboard the Cubana plane. A [CIA] (S) source alleges that Lugo apparently was only peripherally involved in the bombing and is not considered to be one of the leading participants.

Lugo, a Venezuelan citizen, is also a photographer employed by Posada's company. According to [a CIA] (S) source, he also worked for DISIP under the same arrangements noted above for Ricardo.

b. Relationship with US: [CIA states that it has had no contact with Lugo.] (S) The name and phone number of US Legal Attache Leo were discovered in Lugo's address book when he was arrested in Trinidad. Leo says that he has had ~~on~~ no contact with Lugo and speculates that his name and phone were furnished to Lugo by Posada.

CARACAS TEL 10/7

Luis Posada Carriles

a. Involvement in Crash: Posada was arrested on October 14 in Venezuela along with Orlando Bosch and three others accused of conspiring to sabotage the plane. Posada, a Cuban exile who is now a Venezuelan citizen, is vehemently anti-Castro and is suspected of having been the main supporter of Bosch during the latter's stay in Venezuela prior to being

arrested in November 1974. Posada was formerly chief of the counterintelligence division of the Venezuelan intelligence service, DISIP.

b. Relationship with US. CIA says that Posada was a paid informant. The relationship was discontinued in July 1967, but contact was reestablished in October of the same year. When he lost his position in DISIP in March 1974, CIA says the relationship was "amicably terminated." Though he was not paid thereafter, CIA continued to have occasional contact with him until February 1976 when a formal written agreement of termination was signed. The latest contact between CIA representatives and Posada occurred in June 1976 when CIA declined to assist Posada on a visa matter.

The US army attache has also used a Posada business partner (also a Cuban exile, whose name we do not have) as an informant (though not as an agent).

Our Legal Attache (Joseph Leo) became acquainted with Posada during the latter's employment by DISIP, and after his resignation, Posada continued to contact Leo on rare occasions, usually in order to obtain personal service in regard to visa requests for relatives and business associates, the last being Ricardo on ~~October 1, 1976.~~ [September 30, 1976 and October 1, 1976.] Leo says he has seen Posada on about three occasions since 1973, the last being in June 1976 when Posada inquired if the FBI had interest in a Venezuelan who had hired two of his "operatives" as body guards.

Orlando Bosch

a. Involvement in Crash: As noted above, Bosch was arrested in Venezuela for alleged involvement in the Cubana crash. In late June, a CIA source reported that an exile group headed by Bosch planned to bomb a Cubana flight between Panama and Havana. An FBI source has alleged that one attempt was made but the bomb did not detonate. A second try occurred in Jamaica on July 9, but the bomb exploded before the suit-case in which it was carried was put aboard the plane.

According to [CIA sources] (S), Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is said to be sympathetic to Bosch and has permitted him to travel freely in the country and solicit funds with the understanding that Venezuela would not be used as a base of operations or place of refuge. Bosch reportedly promised not to engage in terrorist activity while in Venezuela and received a token $500 contribution from Perez. [Another CIA source] (S) reported that after Bosch's arrival in Caracas in September, he stated during a fund raising dinner that "Now that our organization has come out of the Letelier job looking good, we are going to try something else." A few days later, Posada allegedly said, "We are going to hit a Cuban airliner" and "Orlando (Bosch) has the details."

b. Relationship with US. [CIA says there are no current or recent agency contacts with Orlando Bosch.] (S) The US is currently attempting to have Bosch deported from Venezuela

to the US, where he is subject to immediate imprisonment for parole violation (spell out)

Frank Castro

a. Involvement in Crash: Venezuelan officials reportedly believe that Castro, (head of the FLNC terrorist organization, a component group in CORU) is deeply involved in the crash, though we have no details of his supposed involvement. Frank Castro was in Venezuela in late September 1976 and in mid-October was back in Miami. Frank Castro has admitted to FBI agents that he met with Bosch in Caracas on September 26 or 27, but denies any personal knowledge of the bombing of the Cubana plane.

b. Relationship with US; [CIA says there are no current or recent agency contacts with Frank Castro] (S), who is an American citizen with permanent residence in Santo Domingo.

Orlando Garcia and Ricardo Morales Navarrete

a. Involvement in Crash: Orlando Garcia is President Perez' security and intelligence advisor, and Morales is Garcia's deputy; both are Cuban exiles who are now Venezuelan citizens. [A CIA source] (S) claims that Garcia was directed to protect and assist Bosch during his stay in Venezuela. [Another CIA source] (S) reported that Garcia and Posada met Bosch upon his arrival and escorted him to his hotel. Both Garcia and Morales reportedly attended the fund-raising dinner during which Bosch allegedly made the remark about the "Letelier job," and after the Cubana

crash Garcia may have made an effort to get Bosch out of Venezuela. It is possible, therefore that Garcia and/or Morales may have known in advance about the operation which led to the bombing of the plane.

b. Relationship with US:

Felix Martinez Suarez

a. Involvement in Crash: None, except by the alleged association with Ricardo, contained in Fidel Castro's charges.

b. Relationship with US: [CIA says that Suarez was a CIA media asset from 1961 to January 1974 when he was terminated as a result of his exposure in the Venezuelan media.] (S)

Castro's allegation regarding CORU: With regard to Castro's charge on CIA links with CORU, an FBI report of September 17 states that "a confidential source abroad" claims to have been told by Roberto Carballo (leader of the Association of Veterans of the Bay of Pigs, AVBC, one of the component organizations of CORU) that in July of this year Carballo and three other Cuban exiles had been approached by representatives

Mexico City TC 9/17/76